

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 170075

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: ADS DECON APRIL 30, 1976

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBT: EXCHANGES:CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS (CU/ARTS): SOFT

REF: A) HESS/CARSTONES TELECON JULY 14; B) MOSCOW 9072;  
C) STATE 088490

1. WITH ELIMINATION OF NEIL YOUNG, OUR SEARCH FOR PRESTIGIOUS AMERICAN PAG IN SOFT ROCK GENRE HAS PRODUCED FOLLOWING POSSIBILITIES.

2. DOOBIE BROTHERS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAMMING FOR TWO-THREE WEEK PERIOD BEGINNING O/A MID-FEBRUARY 1976. COMPANY CONSISTS OF THIRTY MEMBERS; SEVEN DOOBIE BROS; THEIR FIVE BACK-UP MUSICIANS "MEMPHIS HORNS", AND FIFTEEN TECHNICIANS. NUMBER TECHNICIANS COULD BE LESS BUT REDUCTION WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT TECHNICAL AND SUPPORT SERVICES REQUIRED BY GROUP WHILE IN SOVIET UNION.

A. COMPANY CARRIES AT MAXIMUM 30,000 RPT 30,000 POUNDS OF  
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PAGE 02 STATE 170075

TOURING PROPERTIES; AMPLIFICATION SYSTEM, LIGHTS, SPECIAL

SOUND SYSTEM AND INSTRUMENTS. LATTER INCLUDES TWO FULL SETS OF DRUMS, KEYBOARDS OTHER THAN PIANO I.E. SYNTHESIZERS,

HORNS, GUITARS (2) AND BASS. REDUCTION IN SIZE OF PROPERTIES DEPENDS ON FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT PERFORMANCE SITES. FOR SOVIET UNION COMPANY ABLE PERFORM IN HALLS WITH SEATING CAPACITY RANGING FROM 2,000-10,000 PEOPLE.

B. REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF TECHNICIANS AND SIZE OF PROPERTIES CAN BE DETERMINED ONLY BY VISIT ADVANCE TEAM. IF GROUP ACCEPTED, COMPANY PREPARED DO ALL POSSIBLE REDUCE BOTH SO LONG AS SOUND REMAINS ACCEPTABLE TO COMPANY.

3. AS EMB AWARE, PRESENT PLANS INCLUDE FOUR PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS (PAG'S) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1976; INTRODUCTION SOFT ROCK GROUP INCREASE TOTAL TO FIVE. DOOBIE BROTHERS WOULD FALL BETWEEN PROJECTED VISITS IN JANUARY 1976 BY COUNTRY MUSIC GROUP (MAXIMUM 3-WEEK - NOT MORE THAN 20 IN NUMBER) AND A.C.T. IN MAY 1976. (REMAINING TWO OF FIVE GROUPS PLANNED FOR 1976 COULD BE SCHEDULED OCCUR IN FALL). SPREAD OF POSSIBLY FIVE GROUPS IN ONE CALENDAR YEAR PRESENTS HEAVY BURDEN TO ALL PARTIES; YET WE AWARE THERE WOULD BE ALMOST CONTINUING PRESENCE OF AMERICAN PAG'S OF STATURE DURING BICENTENNIAL YEAR.

4. ASSUME PROBLEMS OF TRANSPORT OF PROPERTIES IN SOVIET UNION WHICH EXACERBATED DURING WINTER MONTHS WILL BE IN FOREFRONT EMB ASSESSMENT ABOVE PROPOSAL. THESE PROBLEMS COULD BE MINIMIZED, HOWEVER IF CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO POSSIBLY SCHEDULING COUNTRY MUSIC AND DOOBIE BROTHERS IN LESSER NUMBER OF CITIES WHICH WOULD BE CLOSE ENOUGH IN PROXIMITY TO ALLOW FOR TRANSPORT OF PROPERTIES BY SURFACE. POSITIVE ASPECT IN CONSIDERATION OF PROGRAMMING THREE GROUPS DURING JANUARY-MAY 1976 IS FACT THAT DEPT/EMB AND GOSK HAVE BALANCE THIS CALENDAR YEAR (SIX MONTHS LEAD TIME) TO WORK OUT DETAILS ON ALL THREE GROUPS. IN ANY EVENT, DEPT WILL DEFER TO EMB JUDGEMENT WHETHER A) PROGRAMMING OF DOOBIE BROTHERS ACCEPTABLE FOR FEBRUARY B) GOSK WOULD ACCEPT GROUP FOR THIS PERIOD.

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PAGE 03 STATE 170075

5. IF ABOVE NOT FEASIBLE, SOFT ROCK GROUP CALLED "AMERICA" IS ONLY OTHER POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE LEFT DEPT FILL CATEGORY UNDER PRESENT AGREEMENT. GROUP MAY RPT MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAMMING IN OCTOBER 1975. SIZE OF GROUP FIFTEEN; PROPERTIES NOT DETERMINED BUT WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN DOOBIE BROTHERS.

6. BOTH "DOOBIE BROTHERS" AND "AMERICA" HAVE ADVISORY PANEL

MEMBERS APPROVAL WITH FORMER IN FRONT RUNNING.

7. APPRECIATE EMB RESPONSE AND, IF POSSIBLE GOSK INITIAL REACTION ASAP. DOOBIE BROS MUST KNOW WHETHER GROUP ACCEPTED BY SOVS NO LATER THAN JULY 29. DEPT PREPARED FORWARD PUBLICITY MATERIAL AND RECORDS, INCLUDING VTR ON DOOBIE BROS UPON NOTIFICATION OF POSITIVE INTEREST AND FAVORABLE REACTION FROM GOSK. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH "AMERICA" STILL ONGOING.

8. FYI. RE REFTEL B ON ELIMINATION OF NEIL YOUNG. IT NOT UNUSUAL FOR FOREIGN GROUPS TO INCLUDE IN THEIR REPERTORY MUSIC WHICH IS IDENTIFIABLE AS AMERICAN. NOR IS IT UNUSUAL FOR DEPT TO SPONSOR PAG'S WHICH INCLUDE FOREIGN NATIONALS. WITH EXCEPTION HOWEVER OF CONDUCTORS OF AMERICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS (A UNIQUELY SPECIALIZED POSITION) LEADERS OF OTHER PAG'S MUST BE AMERICANS. END FYI. KISSINGER

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